

OCT - 3 2001



**UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY AND DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Washington, D.C. 20231

#31  
DW

Christopher John Rudy  
209 Huron Ave.  
Port Huron, MI 48060

**MAILED**

OCT - 3 2001 :  
Office of the Director :  
Group 3600 :

DECISION ON PETITION  
TO MAKE APPLICATION  
SPECIAL (AGE)

In re Application of  
Richard H. Hall et al.  
SERIAL NO: 09/172,577  
FILED: October 13, 1998  
FOR: INERT GAS BLANKET FOR PROTECTION  
FROM OXIDATION


This is a decision on your petition submitted on September 27, 2001 to make the above referenced application special on the basis that applicant is over 65 years of age.

The petition has been found to comply with all requirements of section 708.02, part IV of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedures, and will be GRANTED for that reason.

The Examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications, (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn, and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference or appeal, if any, only if Petitioner makes a prompt bona fide effort, in response to each office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the Examiner to accomplish this purpose.

The application is being forwarded to the examiner for accelerated examination consistent with the provisions of section 708.02 of the MPEP.

  
Kenneth J. Dorner  
Special Programs Examiner  
Technology Center 3600  
dw/kd: 10/02/01